



MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

April 12, 2006

The Lee County Fire Advisory Board met for its first meeting on April 12, 2006, in the Small Conference Room at the Lee County Government Center.

The following members were present for the meeting:

- Larry Kelly, Fire Chief's Association representative
- Royce Gaines, Lee County Fire Fighter Association representative
- Roger King, Business/Industry representative
- Donald Andrews, Jr., Business/Industry representative
- Larry Oldham, General Public representative
- John Altenburger, General Public representative
- Bob Brown, County Commissioner
- David Smitherman, County Manager

The following items were discussed:

County Manager David Smitherman, gave an update on the purpose and history of the Fire Advisory Board (FAB). Mr. Smitherman explained that the creation of this Board is the result of a recommendation contained in the Rural Fire Protection Improvement Task Force's Report to the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the FAB was outlined in the Bylaws which were adopted by the Commissioners on March 20, 2006.

Mr. Smitherman then asked that the Board elect the offices of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Board member Larry Oldham made a motion that Donald Andrews, Jr. serve as Chairman, which was approved unanimously. Mr. Andrews then asked if there was a suggestion for Vice Chairman. Mr. Oldham made a motion that Mr. Roger King be elected as Vice Chairman, which was also approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Smitherman then provided a report regarding the hiring of a Fire Marshal. It was explained that the County is still receiving and reviewing applications and hopes to begin the interview process soon.

Chairman Andrews then asked Mr. Smitherman to explain the role of the FAB in this year's budget process for the Volunteer Fire Departments. It was suggested that the Board limit their review process this year since the departments have already submitted their budgets to the County Manager. The Board decided it would review and make recommendations on the budget before May 23rd. It was requested that the Board be provided copies of all the fire department budgets as soon as possible for review and discussion at the next FAB meeting.

The Board discussed meeting dates and agreed to meet at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, 2006, for their next meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to familiarize themselves with the submitted budget requests and receive a financial report from County Finance Director Lisa Minter. The meeting will be held in the Small Conference Room at the Lee County Government Center.

Chairman Andrews asked that the Board discuss the possibility of forming a county-wide fire service district and the level of a single tax rate. A county-wide fire district and tax rate was discussed but no action was taken.

The Board discussed total debt vs. county-wide base for the next 10 years. No action was taken.

The following items were discussed and will be furnished for the next meeting.

- Debt schedule for each fire department;
- Budgets for the last five years vs. the current year;
- Financial overview of each department;
- Staffing level of each department and collection rates;
- Analysis of what 6.5-cent will generate next year;
- Tax base for each district; and
- List of major equipment inventory by department.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

Donald Andrews, Jr., Chairman
Lee County Fire Advisory Board

ATTEST:

David M. Smitherman, Secretary